DOWNHAM MARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T

O F T H E

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

FOR THE YEAR 1954.

to which is appended the Report of the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor.

Mr. J.A. Thompson, M.Inst.H.E. M.R.San.I.

DR. G.B. HOPKINS, M.B., Ch.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

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DOWNHAM MARKET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. E.A. Walker, Chairman.

Mr. C.F. Bennett.	Mr. A.C. Dye.
Mr. C.E. Bowman.	Mr. A.L. Fox.
Mrs. I.M. Burbeck.	Mr. R.B. Haynes.
Rev. W.B.S. Dorman.	Mr. W.A. Wright.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Dr. C.T. Darwent, L.R.C.P. L.R.C.S. D.P.H.
(Retired 31st July, 1954).

Dr. J. Hamilton, M.B. Ch.B. D.P.H. (Acting).

Dr. G.B. Hopkins, M.B. Ch.B. B.Pharm. D.P.H.
(Commenced duty 1st April, 1955).

Also holds the appointments of:-

Assistant County Medical Officer of Health.
Assistant County School Medical Officer.
Medical Officer of Health to Downham Rural Council.
Medical Officer of Health to Marshland Rural Council.

SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR.

J.A. Thompson, M.Inst.H.E. M.R.San.I.

September, 1955.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1954.

My appointment having taken effect in April, 1955, I have confined my remarks to one salient feature, the local death rate, which I understand has been a cause of concern to councillors for some years past.

Sixty one deaths were assigned to the district by the Registrar General. Thirty six of these deaths occurred in the Howdale Home, of which six were persons normally resident in Downham Market, the remainder were persons normally resident in other parts of the Administrative County and even further afield. The number of deaths is therefore distorted to the extend of about 100%.

In order to make vital statistics comparable with other areas, the Registrar General derives for every local authority area a comparability factor, to be applied to the crude death rate, yielding the standardised death rate. The rate for your district for 1954, so obtained, is 16, which is 141% of the death rate for England and Wales, and a figure which you are entitled to regard as unfairly representing the solubrity of your district. The reason for this is as follows:-

The comparability factor takes into account, and compensates for, the distortion of the age groups of your district by the presence within it of an assembly of chronic and mostly aged sick, but it does not compensate for the major difference between the expectation of life amongst this assembly and a random sample of people of equivalent age.

A crude death rate of twelve was derived by exclusion of those deaths in persons normally resident elsewhere than Downham Market. This figure is of no use for comparative purposes since the comparability factor cannot be applied to it. If such a factor were available the standardised death rate would probably be lower than twelve per thousand.

The Gneral Register Office gives assurance that the estimate of the urban population has not been affected by deaths in the Howdale Home, and indeed for the purposes of Government Grants the population of the Home may be regarded as additional to the normal compliment of Downham Market; thereby increasing the amount of the Government Grant due.

I have the Honour to be,
Your obedient Servant,

G.B. HOPKINS.

Medical Officer of Health.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Downham Market Urban District Council.

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS, 1954.

Area in acres.....1,003
Population 1931.....2,465
Population 1954 (Estimated).....2,600
Population 1952 (Census).....2,741
Number of Separate dwellings occupied 1954. 924
Rateable value 1954.....£16,485
Product of Penny Rate 1954..... £62

LIVE BIRTHS. 28. 11·3% per 1000 of Population.

	Total	Male	Female	Downham Urban	England & Wales	Administrative County
Legitimate.	28	14	14	11·3	15·2	15·12
Illegitimate.	-	-	-			

STILL BIRTHS. 1 male (legit) 24 24·16

DEATHS Infants under 1 year 1 female (legit)

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks NIL

DEATHS ALL CAUSES. RATE.

Total	Male	Female	Downham Urban	England & Wales	Administrative County
61	33	28	16·0	11·3	11·74

Deaths from Puerperal Causes - NIL.

Deaths from:-

Cancer (all ages)	12.
Measles do	0
Whooping Cough	0
Diarrhoea (under 2 yr)	0

SECTION A.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

Area (acres).....1003
Population (estimated mid-year 1954).....2,600

DEATHS. 61 deaths were assigned to the district by the Registrar General yielding a Standardised Rate of 16.

BIRTHS. 28 births were assigned to the district by the Registrar General, an increase of five on last year.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There were no maternal deaths in the District.

INFANT MORTALITY. Only one child under 1 year of age died in the District during 1954.

STILL BIRTHS. One still birth was notified.

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

GENERAL MEDICAL SERVICES.

1. Norfolk Executive Council, 54, Prince of Wales' Road, Norwich. Clerk - R.J. COBB, ESQ.

EAST ANGLIAN REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD.

2. Senior Administrative Medical Officer,
Dr. J.B. Ewen, M.D. D.P.H.,
"Croft-Holme", 117, Chesterton Road,
Cambridge.

3. (a) GENERAL.
Norfolk & Norwich Hospital, Norwich.
West Norfolk & King's Lynn Hospital, King's Lynn.
Jenny Lind Hospital, Norwich.
St. James' Hospital, King's Lynn (For chronic sick).
The Howdale Home, Downham Market.

(b) MATERNITY.
West Norfolk & King's Lynn Hospital (Maternity Unit).
Addenbrookes' Hospital, Cambridge.

(c) INFECTIONS.
County Isolation Hospital, East Dereham.
Isolation Hospital, King's Lynn.

(d) SANATORIA.
Kelling Sanatorium, Holt.
Bramblewood Sanatorium, Holt.

(e) MENTAL.
St. Andrew's Hospital, Norwich.
Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich.
Heckingham Sanatorium, Norwich.
Little Plumstead, Norwich.

4. MATERNITY SERVICES.

(a) DISTRICT NURSE:-

Nurse Reeves, 2, London Road, Downham Market.

(b) Maternity beds in Regional Hospital Board Establishments:- Stow Maternity Home, Stow Bardolph.

5. AMBULANCE & HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

This is a County Council function and is controlled by the Joint Ambulance Committee. It is worked on an Agency basis by the British Red Cross and the Order of St. John and W.V.S.

The Downham Urban area is served by the Downham Market Ambulance.

Infectious Disease cases are conveyed by the East Dereham and King's Lynn Infectious Disease Ambulances.

6. RED CROSS MEDICAL LOAN DEPOT.

Downham Market - Mrs. I.M. Burbeck, "Court House".

7. COUNTY MEDICAL SERVICES.

The Downham Market Infant Welfare centre is held at the Health Office, Howdale Road.

The Assistant County Medical Officer of Health is in attendance at the session which is held from 2-4 p.m. on the second Thursday of each month.

I must register my warm appreciation of the voluntary help given at each session by the ladies of the local branch of the British Red Cross.

School Minor Ailment Clinic.
This is under the supervision of the School Nurse who is in attendance at 10 a.m. every Wednesday during the term.

The clinic is held at the Area Health Office, Howdale Road.

The Assistant County M.O.H. attends one session a month or more often should the necessity arise.

School Dental Clinic.
This is at present closed, as no Dental Surgeon is available.

Home Help Service.
The County Home Help Scheme is working smoothly and judging by results, the efforts of the five occasional Helps are greatly appreciated. There are now 67 Occasional Home Helps for Downham Rural, Downham Urban and Marshland Rural.

8. VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC.

West Norfolk and King's Lynn Hospital.

Males.	Females and Children.
Tuesday & Fridays.	Tuesday and Wednesdays.
7 p.m.	3 p.m.

9. DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION.

Disinfection of premises is carried out by the Senior Sanitary Inspector's Staff.

Disinfestation of bedding, clothing, etc. which has to be carried out by this department are sent to the East Dereham Isolation Hospital.

10. LABORATORY SERVICES.

(a) Public Health Laboratory,
Isolation Hospital,
Bowthorpe Road,
Norwich.
under the direction of Dr. I.M. Dowsett.

(b) Public Analyst:-

W. Lincoln Sutton, Esq., F.R.I.C.,
Redwell Street,
Norwich.

SECTION C.

PREVALENCE OF CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS & OTHER DISEASES.

SMALL POX. NIL.

SCARLET FEVER. 2 cases were notified.

DIPHTHERIA. NIL.

The following table gives the numbers of children either primarily immunised by a full course of injections, or stimulated to maximum immunity by booster doses, during the last five years:-

1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
18	53	44	28	51

WHOOPING COUGH:- No cases were notified.

MEASLES:- 10 cases were notified.

TUBERCULOSIS:- No new cases were notified and no deaths occurred.

CLOSURE OF SCHOOLS:- Downham Infants, Downham C.P. } 3 days - Influenza, coughs and colds.

SECTION D.

STATISTICAL TABLES, 1954. TABLE NO. 1.

Causes of Death.

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach.	2	1	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus.	1	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, breast.		4	4
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms.	3	1	4
Diabetes.	1		1
Vascular lesions of nervous system.	7	8	15
Coronary disease, angina.	3	3	6
Hypertension with heart disease.	1	1	2
Other heart diseases.	2	2	4
Other Circulatory dieases.	8	5	13
Hyperplasia of prostate.	1	-	1
Congenital malformations.	-	1	1
Other defined & Ill defined diseases	4	2	6
Totals.	33	28	61

TABLE NO. 2.

DEATH RATE OF CHILDREN.

CAUSES OF DEATH OF CHILDREN UNDER ONE YEAR - 1954.

Causes of Death.	Age in weeks.					
	1.	2.	3.	4.	5-52	Total.
Congenital abnormality.					1	1

TUBERCOLOSIS - Mass Radiography.

A Mass Radiography Unit visited Downham Market in April and 1,865 persons were X-rayed (944 - males, 921 - females) of this number 17 have needed Specialised Observations or Re-checks.

MONTHLY INCIDENCE OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS.

TABLE NO. 4.

Disease.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Octo.	Nov.	Dec.	Total.
Scarlet Fever.	1				1								2
Puerperal Pyrexia.													NIL
Measles.					5	5							10
Whooping Cough.													NIL
Erysipelas.													NIL
Pheumonia.	2			1	1						1	1	6
Infective Jaundice.													NIL
Paralytic Polio-myelitis.													NIL
Totals.	3	-	-	1	7	5	-	-	-	-	1	1	18

TABLE NO. 5.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.

Notification in Age Groups 1954.

Disease.	0-	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	65-	Total
Scarlet Fever.							2						2
Puerperal Pyrexia.													NIL
Measles.		1		3	1	2	3						10
Whooping Cough.													NIL
Erysipelas.													NIL
Pheumonia.							2			1	1	2	6
Infective Jaundice.													NIL
Poliomyelitis.													NIL
Totals.		1		3	1	2	7			1	1	2	18

REPORT OF SANITARY INSPECTOR & SURVEYOR.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

I beg to submit particulars of the work carried out during the year ended 31st December, 1954.

1. Inspections during the Year.

(a) Number of houses inspected for defects.	27
(b) Number of inspections for the purpose.	36
(c) Number of houses found not to be fit in all respects for human habitation.	15

2. Remedy of Defects with Service of Formal Notice. 15

2a. Remedy of Defects after Service of Formal Notice.

(a) Housing Act, 1936.	NIL
(b) Public Health Act, 1936.	NIL

3. Number of New Houses built or under Construction.

(a) Houses completed by the Authority.	NIL
(b) Houses completed by the County Council for Police.	3
(c) Houses completed by Private Enterprise.	5
(d) Houses under construction by Local Authority.	8
(e) Houses under construction by Private Enterprise.	NIL
(f) Total houses owned by Local Authority.	146

4. Summary of Other Visits and Inspections.

Council Houses.	234
Water.	2
Bakehouses.	2
Slaughterhouses.	202
Butchers Shops.	21
Market & Food Stores.	16
Fish & Fried Fish Shops.	2
Food Preparation Rooms.	7
Ice Cream.	1
Shops.	44
Factories (Mech. Power).	9
" (No Mech. Power).	1
Schools.	2
Public Halls.	6
Public Conveniences.	20
Tents, Vans & Sheds.	7
Drainage - new & old.	155
	731

	731
Streams & Watercourses.	17
Infectious Diseases.	5
Refuse Collection & Disposal.	73
Rodent Control.	21
Miscellaneous.	40
Sewage Works.	54
In connection with Plans & Buildings.	94
Council House Building - Firs Estate.	65
do do Porter Street.	14
Total	1,114

5. Meat Inspection & Slaughterhouses.

Upon the de-rationing of meat and the Council gave consideration to the re-licensing of private slaughterhouses and 4 Licenses were granted. During the year, after controlled Ministry slaughtering ceased the following were inspected in the slaughterhouses:-

Cattle	59
Calves	5
Sheep & Lambs	86
Pigs	331

The following were condemned and disposed of as unfit for human food:-

1 Complete beast carcase and all offals.
2 Beasts lungs.
5 Beasts livers.
2 Pigs Plucks.
2 Pigs heads.
1 Pigs liver.

6. Food Inspection.

No adulteration of any foodstuff was reported during the year. 85 tins and packages of various foodstuff weighing approximately 208 lbs. were surrendered voluntarily as unfit for human consumption.

7. Milk and Dairies.

There are three distributors of milk in the Urban District. None of them produces milk in the Urban area.

8. Movable Dwellings.

There are three licensed caravans.

9. Public Cleansing.

(a) Scavenging. The whole of the scavenging of both County and District Roads is undertaken by the District Council's employees.

(b) Refuse Collection. House refuse is collected once weekly throughout the District. A number of properties situated just outside the District in the Broomhill and Crow Hall areas are also served. Disposal of refuse is by means of tipping on land at the sewage works.

10. Salvage.

During the year waste paper collected and salvaged and sold amounted to 49 tons 10 cwt. 3 qrs. The amount of money received was £359.1s.5d.

11. Destruction of Rats and Mice.

Poisoning was carried out at the Refuse Tip, Sewage Works and on the sewers and premises in the town.

12. Water Supply.

The Water Supply in the District is from mains of the Wisbech & District Water Board. The supply comes from deep wells in the chalk at Marham.

13. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

The work for carrying out the scheme prepared by the Council's Consulting Engineers, Messrs. J.D. & D.M. Watson for the improvement of the Sewerage and Sewage Disposal systems was advertised and six tenders for the first part of the scheme were received in June. In July the Council accepted the tender of Messrs. H.J. Firman Limited amounting to £71,632 subject to the approval of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, and application was made to the Ministry for a loan of £84,000 and to the Norfolk County Council for a grant towards the cost of the scheme under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944.

The Norfolk County Council raised no objection to the acceptance of the tender of Messrs. H.J. Firman Limited and that the scheme would be approved for grant subject to standard conditions.

During September the Council were pressing the Ministry for permission to commence the work, and in October a letter was received from the Ministry

13. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal - Contd.
asking that the commencement of the work should be deferred until April, 1955. A Council deputation attended upon the Ministry and they agreed to the work being started without delay, subject to the limited expenditure in the financial year 1954/55. The Contract was signed and the work started on 23rd November.

14. Council Housing.
A lay-out for 18 houses, an extension to the Retreat Estate was approved and site works commenced on the 21st September and building on the 6th October.

15. FACTORIES ACT, 1937 & 1948.

Part 1 of the Act - Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector

Premises.	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	4	1	NIL	NIL
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority.	27	9	NIL	NIL
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding Out-Workers' Premises.	-	-	NIL	NIL
	31	10	NIL	NIL

The attention of one occupier was drawn to inadequate heating and another to defective sanitary conveniences.

The Willow Potato Crisp Company Limited closed down their factory during the year.

J.A. THOMPSON.
Surveyor & Sanitary Inspector.